

*Companion of the Ship to England*  
**LUDLOW**  
*Shropshire*  
**& LUDLOW CASTLE**



Including Plan of Town and Plan of Castle

**SIXPENCE**

ED. J. BURROW & CO. LTD., CHELTENHAM & LONDON

Confectioners,  
Pastrycooks,  
and  
Chocolate  
Manufacturers.

Telephone—64



*De Grien's Café*



Luncheons  
Afternoon Teas

**5 & 6 BROAD STREET, LUDLOW**

ALSO AT

**BROMSGROVE, WORCS. Telephone 138**

Wells & Co. Ltd.



# LUDLOW

AND

## LUDLOW CASTLE

### CONTENTS.

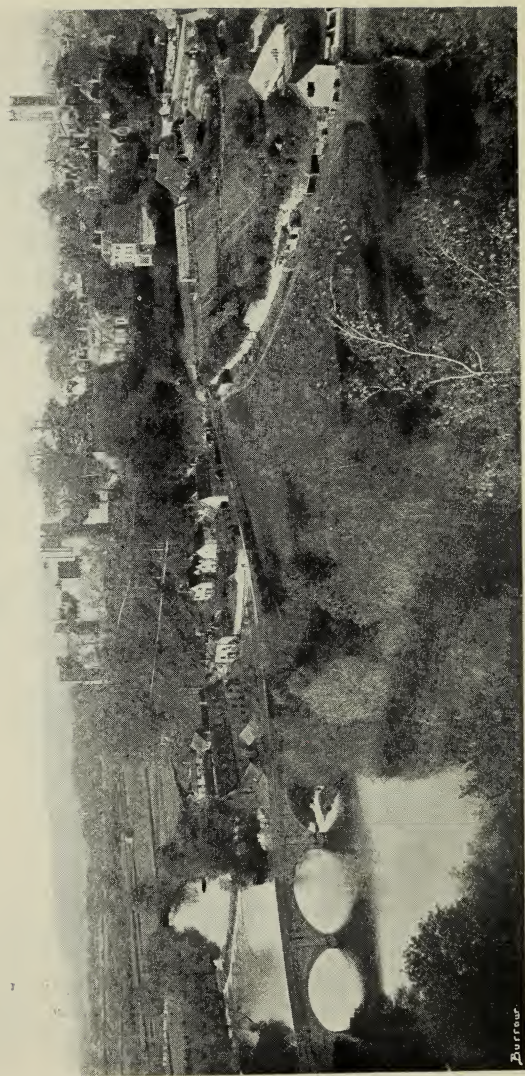
	Page
ORIGIN OF THE TOWN .. .. .	3
HISTORY OF LUDLOW CASTLE .. .. .	4—17
AROUND THE RUINS .. .. .	19—22
LUDLOW CHURCH .. .. .	23
OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST .. .. .	25
GENERAL INFORMATION .. .. .	27
WALKS AROUND LUDLOW .. .. .	30
PLAN OF LUDLOW CASTLE .. .. .	18
STREET PLAN OF LUDLOW .. .. .	29

### SEVEN ILLUSTRATIONS



Infringement of copyright of cover  
design or contents is actionable

ED. J. BURROW & CO. LTD., CHELTENHAM  
and Central House, 43-45-47 Kingsway, London, W.C.2



Burrow

A GENERAL VIEW OF LUDLOW.

Walter Harper, Photo.

# LUDLOW AND LUDLOW CASTLE

## ORIGIN OF THE TOWN.

In the fertile valley watered by the sparkling waters of the Teme, the Corve and the Onny, the town of Ludlow stands upon an eminence surrounded by guardiant hills, green banks and wooded slopes which almost attain in Clee and Titterstone the dignity of mountains. The situation of the town is in itself a peculiarly distinctive feature, which has perhaps given rise to much theoretical speculation in matters about which history is singularly reticent. No reliable records are extant which might throw light upon the early history of the town or its site, but its position upon a hill top has inspired historians to assume that its site was in the distant past occupied successively by a British encampment, a Roman settlement and a Saxon town. There is no evidence, however, of any authoritative nature upon which to base this assumption, nor is it certain that Luda of Anglo-Saxon times was in fact Ludlow.

The finding of Saxon and Anglo-Danish coins bearing the mint stamp of Luda lent colour to the presumptive theory that in Saxon times a town of that name occupied the crown of the hill, but in the absence of corroborative evidence this deduction must be dismissed as mere speculation. It seems probable that the valley and the eminence was occupied long before the name of Ludlow adorns the pages of authenticated history, for there is a reliable tradition that Caractacus, one of the most valiant of the early British warriors, was defeated by Publius Ostorius a few miles from the site of the town of to-day. The obscurity of those days, however, is counterbalanced by a wealth of activity from the eleventh century onwards in which Ludlow and Ludlow Castle are intimately and inseparably bound up.

But apart from enjoying a historical significance of the highest importance, Ludlow possesses in its architectural beauty an irresistible attraction. Mediaevalism is enthroned in the ruins of its noble castle ; the finest examples of Tudor half-timbered houses line its main thoroughfares, and it is set like a jewel of Nature's choice in the midst of her most gracious and striking treasures. And high above the rooftops of her red and grey houses the graceful tower of St. Lawrence's, the parish church, majestically raises its head and looks out proudly, but benignantly, across the vale.

### **LUDLOW CASTLE : ITS HISTORY.**

When the Domesday Survey was made in 1085, no reference to either Ludlow or Ludlow Castle was included in the record, nor was any mention made of Dinham or Dinan, an earlier name by which town and Castle were known. This omission should not be taken as conclusive evidence that a castle or town did not exist prior to this date, but it may be accepted as satisfactory witness to the absence of a castle, church and habitation at that date, more especially when taken in conjunction with the consideration that other places, for example Bromfield, in the immediate vicinity, are mentioned and noted.

It must, however, be borne in mind that in this part of England the Danes had made continual raids up the Severn and into the valley of the Teme, destroying and burning, pillaging and looting towns and villages, whether they offered resistance or not, and Domesday describes whole districts as being waste and deserted which had been formerly inhabited and cultivated.

Whether Ludlow is just an offspring of the Norman Conquest or whether there existed a town on the mound before that period or not, cannot be maintained with absolute certainty, but there is direct evidence that the Castle grew from the Conquest, no doubt inspired by the disorders in the Welsh borderland which marked this period, and that round about its walls the town expanded.

When Henry I came to the throne the name of his favourite knight Joce de Dinan became identified with the fortunes of Ludlow Castle, and shortly after acquiring it he finished the incompleated building, and we are told that he it was who constructed a double moat or ditch, one surrounding the castle in the inner bailey and the other outside the keep.

It seems probable that Joce was dispossessed of this castle in the revolt that took place on the accession of Stephen. At all events, early in 1138, in the third year of his reign, we find that it had already been seized and was occupied by Gervase Paganel and that nearly all the border towns and fortresses were held against the king. The insurrectionary barons made these strongholds the headquarters from which to commit all kinds of ruthless pillage in the surrounding country. Stephen, determined to suppress the activity of the rebel barons, set out on a punitive expedition and laid siege to castle after castle, some successfully, others without result. During this expedition, which fast assumed the magnitude of definite warfare, he carried with him the son of the reigning king of Scotland, a young man of tender years, who, though held as hostage, was early acquiring a personal insight into the art of arms.

Ludlow offered a stubborn resistance, and although the king's followers erected forts from which to conduct their operations, and resorted to every wile known to the profession of arms and the art of siege, the castle remained impregnable. Neither was it through lack of bravery that the king failed, for he was not lacking in personal courage and prowess. In this connection a story is told which colours the siege with a delicate tint of drama—or perhaps comedy. During the course of one of the many attacks which were directed against the obstinate walls of the castle, the young Scottish prince, who it appears was no laggard in attack, approached too near the walls in his enthusiasm, and was seized in a most undignified manner by a grappling iron thrown out with some precision from one of the

castle windows. King Stephen, however, must have been no less enthusiastic to force a breach than the young prince, for he appears to have been near enough to immediately notice his peril. Rushing to the spot, with great bravery, regardless of the personal danger to which his act exposed him, he succeeded in releasing the prince from his awkward predicament. To this day this act of bravery is remembered, and visitors to the castle are shown the historic window from which the grapple was thrown.

The restoration of Joce may have taken place any time between the years 1150 and 1154, but we may well suppose that one of his first concerns on resuming his interrupted residency was to ensure the strength of the walls and the fortifications by rebuilding damaged areas, and adding new safeguards against the rapacious jealousy of his neighbours. That he possessed a flair for architecture is undisputed and much of the castle as it stands to-day was his work. He was at the same time actuated by a desire to preserve his own safety, and this consideration no doubt influenced him in making all his enlargements and improvements of an enduring nature. His fears in regard to his own person were well founded, for it would seem that he was at no time held in high favour by his neighbours, who looked upon him as an interloper.

### **HUGH DE MORTIMER.**

Ludlow Castle, however, was poorly garrisoned, and the situation in which Joce found himself was as a result one of extreme discomfort owing to the warlike attitude of Hugh de Mortimer. The position soon became so intolerable that Joce, who was practically a prisoner in his own castle daring not to venture forth to the pleasures of falconry or the chase, determined to outwit the enemy at his gates. Mortimer was served by a numerous and powerful following, and usually took his pleasures well attended. One day, however, Joce discovered that the troublesome baron was to ride out alone, and getting a clue to his whereabouts, he directed his men to lie in wait. The ambush

## MORTIMER'S TOWER.

---

was successful and before nightfall Hugh de Mortimer found himself a prisoner in a tower in the third bailey of Ludlow Castle. This tower was the loftiest in the Castle and is known as Mortimer's Tower, bearing to this day the name of its redoubtable prisoner, who having been given an opportunity of meditating upon the doings of his stormy career was liberated on payment of a ransom of 3,000 marks.



W. H. Smith & Son, Photo.

THE KEEP, LUDLOW CASTLE.

Joce, however, had barely settled with one formidable foe only to find another in the person of Hugh de Lacy, who laid claims to certain estates in Herefordshire under a deed executed in the last year of the reign of Stephen. Apparently Joce considered himself entitled to the same estates, and the two claimants were soon concerned in a rigorous war which was prosecuted with great venom by both parties. The feud was a protracted one, and a number of the incidents which took place have been collected in "*The Romance of the Fitz-Warines.*"

It was the custom in those distant times to place the son of a noble family in the household of a valiant lord, whose courage and prowess were beyond reproach and who was well versed in all the arts of warfare, in order that the boy should grow to youth and from youth to manhood in an atmosphere of knightly behaviour, and well educated in knightly exercises. To benefit in this manner Fulke Fitz-Warine, when he was seven years of age, was placed in the charge of Joce de Dinan, who bore a reputation of being a knight of great experience, and the boy, who had inherited the castle and title of Whittington, grew to be a strong and handsome youth when he reached the age of eighteen years. It was when the boy was about this age that the hostilities between Joce and de Lacy were at their zenith and conflicts were occurring daily.

One morning in looking out from the highest tower of the castle Joce beheld the fields about Dinham and across the river at Whitcliff crowded with soldiers in gleaming armour hastening under the banner of Ralph de Lacy to engage him in battle. Realising his danger he immediately alarmed the castle and, while the advance guard of Joce's defence engaged the de Lacy forces at the river, the Lord of Ludlow in great haste marshalled upwards of five hundred knights and armed men, augmented by burghers of the town, and marching at the head of this powerful company he flung himself into the conflict. A decisive victory, after some sharp encounters, resulted for Joce de Dinan, and the remnant of de Lacy's men sought safety in flight. Walter de Lacy seeing his men disperse betook himself unattended towards Bromfield. Joce caught sight of him and immediately gave pursuit, overtaking his enemy in a depression between the wood and the river, within sight of the castle. In the flush of his victory he was about to take Ralph prisoner, an easy victim for he was badly wounded, when three of the fleeing knights came up and set upon him.

Throughout the fight the fortunes of war were closely watched from the castle by Joce's lady and her

two daughters, Sybil and Hawyse, and their exultation gave way to terror as they perceived the grave danger to which Joce had exposed himself in his impetuosity. Their shrieks piercing the quietude of the castle brought Fulke Fitz-Warine to their side, and in a state of great agitation and anxiety enquired the cause of their distress. The Lady Hawyse, to whom he addressed his enquiry, answered him scornfully and contemptuously and bade him hold his tongue, adding that he so little resembled his brave father, that he was not ashamed to pace up and down the safe passages of the castle while her father who had cared so much for him stood in danger of his life. The passionate words of scorn so stung the young man, that he instantly turned on his heel and fled from the castle to help his foster father. De Lacy was overcome after a short struggle, two of his knights were killed, and the third, who was Arnold de Lys, was marched along with him to Ludlow Castle by their captors, where they were confined in one of the towers known as Pendover Tower.

### MARION DE LA BRUERE.

As may be expected, the presence of two distinguished prisoners within the castle walls caused a wave of excitement throughout the great fortress. Every consideration was shown to the prisoners and they were even visited by the ladies, who no doubt were sorry to see such handsome and well set-up gentlemen in this awkward predicament. Among the ladies was a very fair maiden, Marion de la Bruere, and she was particularly assiduous in her attentions to the gallant Arnold de Lys. She fell a victim to his fascinations, and was easily induced to aid in the escape of the two prisoners. This was eventually effected one dark night through one of the windows by tying sheets and towels together.

De Lacy's first act on gaining his liberty was to apply for help to his father, who was with Strongbow in Ireland. Determined to be avenged upon Joce de Dinan, De Lacy resumed a series of hostilities in the neighbourhood of Ludlow, which by their frequency

and persistent recurrence became a source of annoyance to everyone in the district. At length these erratic skirmishes assumed so troublesome a character that several influential noblemen, neighbours to both contestants, finding the conditions beyond endurance, brought pressure to bear on the two old enemies and effected a reconciliation.

Hawyse then married Fulke Fitz-Warine amidst scenes of great festivity and rejoicing, at the conclusion of which Joce and his household left the Castle to visit Berkshire, leaving thirty knights and seventy soldiers in charge.

Marion de la Bruere, pining for her lover, took advantage of this opportunity, and feigning illness begged to be left behind. She immediately got in touch with Arnold, who in turn informed de Lacy, and they conspired together to take the castle. Arnold went to the tryst on a moonless night with a thousand men-at-arms, and his mistress who awaited him at the window dropped a cord to which he attached a leathern ladder. A hundred armed men lay in ambush in the woods, and when all was quiet they clambered up the ladder which had been left suspended, and spreading noiselessly through the castle killed the guards in their beds. Marion in the morning realised the treachery to which she had been an unwitting agent, and seized with the madness of despair and shame and anger she snatched up her lover's sword and pierced him to the heart while he slept. Then, opening wide the casement of her chamber, she flung herself hurtling to death from the window.

### JOCE BESIEGES THE CASTLE.

De Lacy was now in occupation of Ludlow Castle, and he was determined to hold it, having manned it not only by his own forces, but by Irish troops as well. Joce de Dinan and Fulke Fitz-Warine were enjoying themselves at Lambourne when this unpleasant news was conveyed to them. Incensed with the perfidy of the act of treachery by which Ludlow had fallen into the hands of his enemy, Joce and Fulke succeeded in

raising an armed retinue of 7,000 men, and at the head of these troops they arrived at Caynham Castle, about two miles from Ludlow, determined to administer a severe punishment to de Lacy for his presumption. But Ludlow was stoutly walled and well manned, and the siege was long and arduous despite the vigour and the severity of the onslaught to which Joce's forces submitted it. For a long time the besiegers seemed to gain no advantage, but de Lacy suffered severely when he ventured beyond the walls in a sally. And so the siege proceeded, each side showing remarkable intrepidity in attack and counter attack until at last a party of Joce's men succeeded in setting up a fire of bacon grease at the outer gateway, which burned so fiercely that it communicated its blaze to the doorway and finally the gateway tower became involved in the conflagration. The destruction of the tower gave Joce the entry of the outer bailie and he now stood before the castle itself.

Fortune, however, was not destined to favour the arms of Sir Joce, for de Lacy, finding himself powerless to drive off the attackers unaided, sent into Wales for assistance, and twenty thousand men, anxious for loot and ready for pillage, responded to his appeal. The appearance of these allies completely turned the tables against the besiegers, and though they fought valiantly for a while against overwhelming odds, they were ultimately defeated and Joce was taken prisoner and imprisoned in his own castle.

King Henry II was at this time holding his court at Gloucester, and to him Fulke fled, being now Lord of Whittington through the death of his father. Henry welcomed the distressed baron with affectionate cordiality and installed him in his court, making the Lady Hawyse a lady-in-waiting to the queen, and he ordered de Lacy, under threat of severe penalties, to release his prisoner.

It must not be supposed that the obedience of Walter de Lacy on this occasion was evidence of loyalty to his king, for though he complied immediately with

the royal command he would have as readily disobeyed if he did not fear the valour, the skill and the disciplined power of the king's army more than his Majesty's displeasure. Joce now joined his son-in-law at the king's court, and shortly after his arrival, Hawyse, his daughter, bore a son.

Events followed each other swiftly now, for Joce de Dinan, never regaining possession of Ludlow Castle, died at Lambourne soon after the birth of his grandson, who was, like his father, named Fulke. Ludlow Castle was bequeathed by Joce to his son-in-law. His rights to Ludlow were, however, never more than a title on paper, for there is no record that he ever re-entered into possession. He was succeeded by his eldest son Fulke, who worthily fulfilled the family traditions throughout the reign of Richard I.

One of the first acts of King John was to remove the Lord of Ludlow and Corvedale from the Wardenship of the Marches, a dignity which he received from King Richard. Fulke now became an outlaw, and his adventures were no less exciting than those of Robin Hood.

The vicissitudes of Ludlow Castle during the reign of King John were great indeed, and while it was a nominal possession of the Crown, fortified against the Welsh, the office of custodian was held by a numerous band. In 1209 de Lacy rebelled and fled to Ireland, but he was pardoned and restored to most of his possessions in 1213, and two years afterwards he entered Ludlow Castle to take the place of Engeland de Cygony. The troubles with the border barons continued throughout King John's reign, and the history of the period is one of incessant fighting.

When Henry III came to the throne conditions were no better, and his reign is flecked by the troubles which took root during the baronial strife. Henry made a tour of the borderland territory for the purpose of strengthening the defences against the incursions of the Welsh, and in the course of his journey he put fortifications in good condition and caused many new

ones to be erected. Ludlow played an active part in the skirmishes which took place during this reign, and was the meeting place in 1225 of Llewellyn, Prince of Wales, and King Henry, when a treaty of peace was signed.

Yet the signing of this treaty did not end the war, for the conflict continued with undiminished vigour.

### **EARL OF MARCH.**

Wigmore, a neighbouring castle, was occupied during this period by the family of De Mortimer, who by their numerous acts of allegiance and doughty deeds of bravery gained great power during the reign of Henry III, and in the reign of Edward I Ludlow was added to the family possessions by the marriage of Roger de Mortimer to Joane de Geneville, who was heiress to its policies.

Following the deposition of Edward II, Mortimer became Earl of March, and to commemorate this honour he gave a great festival in the Marches of Wales to which he invited the queen and the young king Edward III. The Earl of March was now the virtual ruler of the kingdom, but some of the nobles resented his haughty bearing and his usurpation of authority, and in 1331 he was taken and, being convicted of treason, was hanged in London.

In the year preceding the Wars of the Roses Ludlow Castle became the chief residence of Richard Plantagenet, Duke of York. The country towards the end of the fourteenth century and in the beginning of the fifteenth was a seething pot of trouble, discontent and political intrigues, in all of which the house of Mortimer played an active part.

### **THE PROTECTORATE.**

The unpopular measures of Henry VI were rigidly opposed by the Duke of York, and in 1457 he became so enraged with the conduct of affairs that he threw up his Irish command and forced his way to the King's presence in London, at the head of a powerful army. At a subsequent meeting of Parliament he was elected

protector of the Kingdom, Henry having been declared mentally incapable of managing his affairs. The protectorate was of short duration, lasting only nine months, at the end of which Richard returned to Ludlow and gathered about him some of the most influential noblemen of the day. In 1459 things went precipitately from bad to worse, hostilities finally breaking out at Bloreheath, where the Lancastrians suffered a reverse.

### WARS OF THE ROSES.

Towards the end of the year the king moved a tremendous army on Ludlow and was met by a powerful force to defend the castle and the Yorkist cause. The king's army, upwards of 60,000 strong men, was spread out in the meadows before the castle and facing them, well entrenched, were Richard's men, and what would have been the greatest contest in the York and Lancaster war was on the point of being enacted at Ludlow. Richard relied to a large extent upon Sir Andrew Trollope and his veteran experienced troops to win the day, and having held council with him it was decided to attack the Lancastrians in the early morning, taking them by surprise. Sir Andrew, who was Marshall of the Duke's army, and who had been present at all the deliberations, decided during the night to throw in his lot with the Lancastrians. The effect may easily be conjectured. The battle became a stampede, Richard fled to Ireland, the Earls of Warwick and Salisbury fled to France, and Ludlow Castle fell into the hands of Lancastrians, who were ruthless and merciless in their treatment of those who failed to make good their escape. The castle itself was completely sacked, and divested of everything of value.

Edward, Richard's son, despite his tender years, seems to have been a young man of considerable acumen and resource, for on learning of the disaster of Wakefield he immediately collected an army and set out for the Welsh border to avenge his father's death. The two forces met at Mortimer's Cross, a few miles from Ludlow, and resulted in a decisive victory for the Yorkists,

who in retaliation for the action of Lancastrians at Wakefield put all the more important personages amongst the prisoners to death.

Edward, flushed with his victory and no doubt not a little emboldened by the impetuosity of youth, continued his march to London, and finding no great opposition from the people proclaimed himself King and took the title of Edward IV.

### THE FIRST PRINCE OF WALES.

In 1472 he elevated his eldest son to the title of Prince of Wales. Prince Edward was quite a child when he received this title and the king sent him to Ludlow Castle with his younger brother and half-brother under the guardianship of their uncle, Anthony Woodville, Lord Rivers. The idea in Edward's mind in sending his young sons to Ludlow was that their presence might so react upon the Welsh that they would desist from their outrages. Here the Prince's Council was established, over which the Bishop Alcock as Lord President presided, and this Council sat for the purpose of administering justice in Wales until Edward's death in 1483. On the death of the king, the two princes were conveyed to London, where they were mysteriously murdered, and Richard III ascended the throne under a cloud of suspicion.

Some success must have attended the efforts of the Court instituted by Edward IV, for the purpose of ameliorating the conditions in the borderland counties, for we find that Henry VII imitated Edward by sending his eldest son Arthur to Ludlow for precisely the same purpose. Prince Arthur of Wales was placed under the guardianship of a wealthy Welshman, Sir Rhys ap Thomas, and the King paid numerous visits to Ludlow Castle while the prince was in residence. During this period the Castle assumed a regal grandeur, and all the pomp and display of the court was enacted within its walls. Henry, the first monarch of the house of Tudor, took a lively interest in its affairs, and for thirty years it was not only a Royal palace but, in

addition, the seat of government for the Principality of Wales.

### **CATHERINE OF ARRAGON.**

It was to Ludlow that Prince Arthur conducted Catherine of Arragon when she became his bride, a union which, however, was short-lived, for the prince died in 1502, shortly after his marriage. The walk immediately under the castle, known as the "Queen's Walk," was made for Catherine.

Henry VIII, through the advice of Bishop Lee, who was Lord President in 1535, was instrumental in achieving momentous enactments in the history of the relationship between England and Wales. No doubt the way was made easier by the policy of Edward IV and Henry VII, but Henry VIII by obliterating the Marches and turning them into shires, gave Wales a parliamentary representation, and in this manner brought about a political unity of the two countries. Bishop Lee was in a large measure the guiding genius in these great changes, and when he died in 1543 the strifes of the Border had subsided and peace reigned where turmoil had run riot.

### **SIR HENRY SYDNEY.**

The office of Lord President continued, and the most notable figure to occupy the position in Ludlow was Sir Henry Sydney, who assumed responsibilities on the 14th October, 1559, and held them for twenty-seven years, performing great improvements to both the town and the castle. He neither spared his time, his talents or his purse in his zeal to benefit Ludlow, and a great deal of the charming Tudor architectural embellishments of the town to-day were the outcome of his assiduous concern for the betterment of local conditions. Sir Henry Sydney died at Ludlow in 1586 and was succeeded by Henry Herbert, Earl of Pembroke, his son-in-law, who carried on the duties of the Court of the Marches until 1601 when Lord Zouch took control. The new spirit of independence and goodwill which was developing rapidly amongst the border people was now

speedily sounding the death knell of this office, which, having proved its usefulness in a difficult time, was no longer required. During the Civil War, when trouble reigned between the Monarchy and Parliament, the castle was besieged by the Parliament troops.

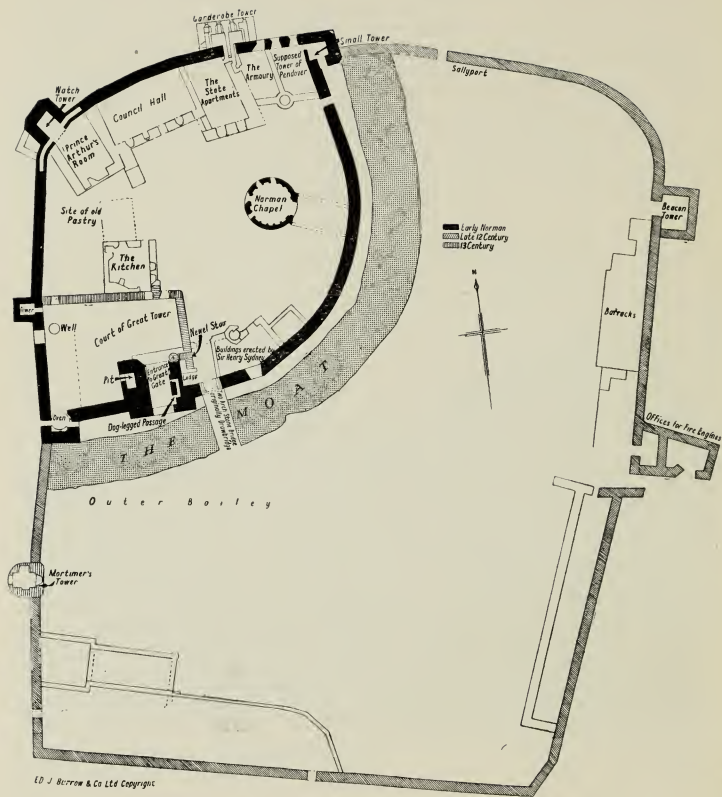
In 1668 the work of Lord President had so departed from the example set by Sir Henry Sydney that we find a complaint being raised that this office constituted a grievance and the matter was raised in Parliament,



*Valentine & Sons Ltd.,  
Photo.*

ROUND CHAPEL AND STATE  
APARTMENTS, LUDLOW CASTLE.

with the result that an act was passed in 1689 abolishing the court, and with it departed some of the glory of Ludlow. Then the grand old castle which had been the witness of so many and such wonderful scenes of splendour, such acts of bravery, such times of excitement, such feasts and rejoicings, sank gradually into decay. And to-day its grim walls stand a silent reminder, and while the ancient glory may have departed, the ruins will ever recall the story that has laid its impress so deeply on the pages of history.



**GROUND PLAN OF LUDLOW CASTLE**  
 showing outer defences and  
 principal features.

# LUDLOW CASTLE

## AROUND THE RUINS.

The entrance to the castle from the town is through an arched gateway which faces the thoroughfare known as Castle Street. Immediately inside is an extensive bailey or ward, which is popularly called the Outer Court. The actual buildings remaining in the outer court are of no great importance, but those in the far left corner excite interest as being the remnant of the Court of the Marches, said to have been built by Sir Henry Sydney. Between these ruins and the actual junction of the outer wall with the castle itself is a very ancient tower oddly semicircular in shape. This is the famous Mortimer's Tower, wherein Hugh de Mortimer was incarcerated by Joce de Dinan. The castle stands upon a rock and is surrounded by a dry moat, which divides the outer wall from the outer court. A stone bridge of two arches which takes the place of the ancient drawbridge spans the moat at the entrance gateway which is known as Sydney's Gateway, and his armorial bearings and inscription, together with those of Queen Elizabeth, England and France, surmount the pointed arch. The inscription reads: "Hominibus Ingratis Loquimini Lapides: Anno Regni Regine Elizabethe, 23." It was in a room over the gateway that Butler, who was a steward under Lord Carberry, wrote the first part of *Hudibras*. Entering the inner court, the scene is impressive in the solemnity of the roofless towers and vacant windows that surround the court like gaunt accusing skeletons.

On the left of the entrance gateway is the massive square keep, the original work of the first de Lacy, and on the right are graceful Tudor buildings erected by Sir Henry Sydney. The Norman keep is the oldest part of the castle, but a great deal of alteration and reconstruction took place in its interior during the fifteenth century which has effectively masked the original order of its chambers. The well of the keep, which is about 120 feet deep (60 feet to the level of

the debris), is twenty or thirty yards away instead, as is usual, of being within the tower itself.

Four storied, the keep stood 73 feet high ; it has in its basement the apartment which is known as the entrance to the great gate, but which some assert was at one period used as a chapel. The " Dog legged " passage was undoubtedly used to admit inmates or strangers after the gate had been locked. The dungeon was also in the keep. Residential apartments filled the upper stories. A newel staircase leading to the keep is 15th-century workmanship, but the porter's lodge is earlier, belonging to the 12th century. The Postern Tower overlooking the wall between the keep and the main fabric is known as the Lion's Den. The main buildings are entered by a wide doorway in the west end of the south wall of the Great Hall or Council Chamber ; the Chamber on the left, entered by a similar but smaller doorway, is known as Prince Arthur's Room. It was these apartments that Prince Arthur of Wales occupied upon his marriage with Catherine of Arragon in 1501. A watch tower projects over the wall from this wing of the Castle. This Watch Tower belongs to the original early Norman building, but Arthur's Room, the Council Chamber, and the State Apartments, which occupied the portion to the immediate right of the Council Chamber, were erected in the 14th century. It is notable that Milton wrote his " Masque of Comus " within Ludlow Castle, and it was first performed in this Council Chamber in 1634. Originally approached by a flight of marble steps, the doorway is characterised by a wealth of delicate and beautiful mouldings. The buildings to the right of the State Apartments were the Armoury and Lodgings. The walls that stand to-day are Elizabethan, but it was in the chambers between the armoury and the Lodgings that the two princes, sons of Edward IV, resided before being conveyed to London where they were murdered. Projecting forward from the wall between the State Apartments and the Armoury is the Guardrobe Tower (14th century).

In the centre of the courtyard a most interesting ruin is the circular Norman chapel, said to be the first round church in England. The chancel extends to the outer wall, and at one time a gallery connected it to the State Chambers. The interior features consist of 14 arched niches separated by columns. The workmanship of the capitals and the mouldings of the arches are diverse in character, and the niches are said to have at one time contained effigies of the 12 Apostles, the Saviour and the Virgin. The west entrance is an excellent example of early Norman work, the fine pointed mouldings of the arch being still in a wonderful state of preservation.



*Ed. J. Burrow, Photo.*

SYDNEY'S GATEWAY, SHOWING  
ARMORIAL BEARINGS.

### INTERESTING SIGHTS.

Other items of interest will be noticed. In the outer bailey are the remains of a former chapel of St. Peter (14th century) which abuts the Court House erected in Elizabethan times. The oven tower is in the court of the great tower and a number of Elizabethan buildings consisting of a porter's lodge, prison and stables lines

the outer town wall. The great kitchen, with its fireplace (14th century), projects from the 13th century wall of the court of the great tower in the inner bailey. The fireplace in Prince Arthur's Chambers, to the west of the Council Hall, is worth attention. The tower from which the Royal Prince of Scotland was gripped by a grappling iron is the Beacon Tower, overlooking the town wall to the right of the main entrance to the outer bailey.



*Harvey Barton  
& Son Ltd., Photo.*

THE BUTTER CROSS, SHOWING TOWER  
OF ST. LAWRENCE'S CHURCH AND  
HALF-TIMBERED TUDOR HOUSES.

During the Peninsular Wars the lead was taken from the castle roof and this pillage in a larger measure hastened the decay of the supporting timbers, leaving the castle eventually the skeleton we find it to-day.

Among the curiosities exhibited are a quaint 14th-century rustless iron spit-clamp, and the skulls of oxen slaughtered for the banquets that took place in far off days within these ancient walls.

## LUDLOW CHURCH

The Parish Church of St. Lawrence stands upon the highest point of the mound upon which the town clusters and is one of the finest parish churches in England. Dedicated to the memory of St. Lawrence, a Spanish saint of the third century, it was formerly a collegiate church, and this contention is supported by the exquisite carving of the stalls and miserere seats in the choir. Of great antiquity, it is said to occupy the site of a smaller building of which there is now no evidence, but it is not an unreasonable supposition that such a building was erected by the Normans. The earliest portions of the present building, however, belong to the twelfth century, and may have been extensions or enlargements of an earlier structure. Constructed of red sandstone, cruciform in shape, its tower rises in graceful lofty proportions to dominate the vale and to provide an inspiring landmark which can be readily seen for miles around in the beautiful countryside that surrounds it.

The church occupies a considerable area, with nave and aisle, choir, two transepts and two chapels, its full length extending to about 200 feet. Across the transepts it measures 128 ft. ; the width of the nave and aisles is 78 ft., and the tower is 135 ft. high. Looking upwards, its lofty appearance is very arresting, and the whole interior is reminiscent of cathedral grandeur. Thought to have been finished about the 13th century, additions and alterations were made by Roger de Mortimer in the fourteenth century, but much work was expended in restoration, enlarging and alteration when the reconstructing genius of Edward IV interested itself in Ludlow. The Perpendicular style which characterised this period is much in evidence, including the present tower. The nave, chancel and transepts into which the tower is set are earlier workmanship, and it is believed that prior to the disastrous Wars of the Roses, when the town of Ludlow was sacked, an earlier tower existed.

Each angle of the tower is adorned by an octagonal turret crowned with a pinnacle, and there is a melodious

peal of eight bells with carillon which render on consecutive days of the week at 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. the tunes "Hanover," "See the Conquering Hero comes," "Blue Bells of Scotland," "Old 113th Psalm," "My Lodging is on the Cold Ground," "Life let us Cherish" and "Home Sweet Home."

### **NORTH AISLE AND TRANSEPT.**

The south entrance to the church, which is the principal one, is Early English belonging to the 13th century. The Porch is hexagonal with battlemented top. The North Aisle is next in order of antiquity, and was built by Theobald de Verdun in the next century and no doubt the Mortimers had some hand in the work of this period. The original windows in the north side, dating from 1316, are worthy of note, but the west window belongs to the period of Edward II.

The recesses in the North-west corner decorated by the Tudor Rose were supposed to be the tomb of Prince Arthur of Wales, son of Edward IV. There is, however, grave doubt that they represent a tomb at all, being more probably part of a chantry chapel. Entering the north transept, which is dedicated to St. Margaret and dates from the middle of the fourteenth century, a piscina and 15th-century screen are the main features.

It is interesting to examine the exterior of this transept, which formed at one time the Fletchers' Chapel. Over the gable is the symbol of the Fletchers, an arrow, the sign of the arrowmakers, to commemorate an exploit of Robin Hood, who legend relates shot an arrow from the Old Field two miles away to this portion of Ludlow Church. The nave comprises six bays and is attributed to the 15th century, to which period the screen also belongs.

### **THE EAST WINDOW.**

In the north chancel aisle, St. John's Chapel contains a remarkable 15th-century screen. The window contains some fine old glass. The Choir is lofty and spacious, and provides enormous interest in the wealth

of carving of the stalls. The main object of attraction in the Chancel is the East Window, a noble work of art in stone and glass, 30 ft. high and 18 ft. broad. The scheme of the design depicts the life, history and miracles of St. Lawrence in twenty-seven scenes. Some 300 figures are delineated in the representation.

### **MONUMENTS AND OTHER FEATURES.**

There are a large number of interesting and historic monuments, mostly commemorating figures who were associated with the Court of the Marches. The daughter of Sir Henry Sydney (d. 1574) lies in the chancel, and near her tomb is an alabaster effigy of Edmund Waler, "Chief Justice of the Court of the Marches." The Lady Chapel in the South Chancel aisle contains an original 12th-century piscina and the screen is a good specimen of 15th-century art. The east window is a notable and beautiful example of 14th-century stained glass work.

The pulpit is executed to the design of J. Oldrid Scott and exhibits excellent oak carving by Thompson's of Peterborough. The organ originally occupied a position on the Rood loft, and was the gift in 1704 of Lord Powis. In 1860 it was translated to the north transept. On various occasions since that date it has been added to and improved.

The font is Norman and still shows the position of the fastenings and hinges of the cover which in ancient times surmounted it.

### **OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST.**

Ludlow has many fine Georgian houses with stabling and large gardens, which were originally built for and owned by local gentry, who moved into them before the winter each year. In those days the roads were impassable in winter and the social amenities of Ludlow were preferred to isolation in the scattered country mansions.

**The Reader's House.** On leaving the church by the south door and following the pathway to the left around the church, a fine specimen of Tudor

architecture is preserved in "The Reader's House," or as it is also called The Olde House in the Churchyarde.

It is referred to in old records as the Church House, Hall or Sale, or "the House for the use of the Church and Parishe." The office of Reader is connected with the Ancient Palmers' Guild founded in 1284. In the reign of Edward VI, the Palmer's Guild gave up its property to the Crown, on condition that the Corporation of Ludlow carried on its charities and other activities, amongst which was the provision of an Assistant to the parson of the Parish of Ludlow—or Reader. The original duties of the Reader were to "read the prayers in church twice on Sundays and once on other days."

The portion of the original Church House still standing is of very early date. This part is unique as the remains of a Church House of remote times. The main part of the house belongs to Tudor times, and is constructed of massive oak cross-beams with wattle between. The plaster ceilings are adorned with

emblems connected with the history of Ludlow, and there is a finely carved three-storied Jacobean porch, which was added in 1616.

The Reader's House was restored in June, 1909, by the present tenant, when it was first opened to visitors.

**Feathers Hotel**  
in the Bull Ring is one of the most remarkable examples of 17th-century half-timbered work in England. The entrance door is



DOORWAY OF READER'S HOUSE.

ancient, and there is reason to believe that it is the original one. The House was first referred to as "The Feathers" in a deed of 1656, and was an inn at that time. The ceiling of the dining room is extremely interesting. The moulding represents roses, thistles, acorns and bunches of grapes, while in the centre is a large embossed copy of the Arms of James I.

**Broad Gate** is situated in Broad Street midway between the River and the Bull Ring. It is the only gateway in the old town wall, and it is surrounded on either side by ancient dwellings. Evidences of the portcullis and the hinges of the gates are still observable.

**Butter Cross** is an old Renaissance building at the head of Broad Street. It contains in its peculiar bell turret the bell from the old chapel of St. Leonard, which in former times occupied a site in Corve Street. It was formerly a Market Place.

**The Grammar School** is one of the oldest educational institutions in the country, having been founded prior to 1285. It owes its origin to the Guild of the Palmers.

**Girls' Public High School** is a modern building in Castle Square, carried on under the Regulations of the Board of Education.

### GENERAL INFORMATION.

**Distance from London :** 180 miles.

**Population :** 5,700. **Rateable Value :** £23,500.

**Area :** 416 acres. **Early Closing Day :** Thursday.

**Market Day :** Monday.

**Post Office :** Corve Street (erected 1926).

**Market Hall, Town Hall and Council Chamber :**  
Castle Street.

**Guildhall :** Mill Street (erected 1768).

**Drill Hall :** Portcullis Lane.

**Banks :** Lloyds, Broad Street ; Barclays, King Street ; Midland and the National Provincial Bank, Bull Ring.

**Railway :** Excellent rail communication by joint main line of L.M.S. and G.W. Railways, giving

# Walks Around Ludlow

By ALDERMAN JOHN PALMER.

In the neighbourhood of Ludlow beautiful and interesting walks abound. Wherever the pedestrian turns he is rewarded by a charming outlook—fine scenery, beautiful woods, shady lanes, breezy hills, an old church, an ancient ruin, a fine manor house or county seat, a timbered barn, prehistoric camp or other object of interest.

**A Walk in the Town.** Starting from the Square enter the walk on the right of the Castle entrance, observe the square flanking tower on the left. Just beyond, hidden from the path by the jutting rock, is an old sally-port whose gate, to prevent it being burned, was covered with stone slabs and sheets of iron, part of which remain. As the path descends the great pile of northern buildings frowns into view, rising to a stupendous height. The three tall narrow windows high up in the wall mark the position of the Great Hall where on Michaelmas night, 1634, the *Masque of Comus* was first performed. The open area below where a yew tree stands was the ancient cockpit. A hole in the Castle boundary wall marks the point where the pipes conveying Sir Henry Sidney's water supply passed through to the Castle interior. The next tower is called the oven tower, its basement being fitted with a huge baking oven. Near it, in the outer bailey, is Mortimer's Tower. The path now passes through the Castle wall, the mass of buildings on the left mark the site of the court of the Marches. The oak doorway is in the wall of a church which was built by Roger Mortimer to mark his escape from the Tower of London on St. Peter's day, 1323. Returning to the Square we pass down Mill Street, noting on the right the Guildhall, on the left the buildings of the Ludlow Grammar School, dating from the 14th century. Here turn to the left along Silk Mill Lane to the Broad Gate, the only remaining one of seven which pierced the Town Wall. Note the great iron hinge on which the gate swung, the grooves down which the portcullis slid, the stout iron hook over which the reins of a waiting steed were cast, and the narrow lancet openings, now filled with brick, which defended the gateway. Proceeding upwards we observe near the top the Butchers' Row, a fine group of old-timbered houses overhanging the footways. A narrow entry leads to the Parish Church, and we pass round to observe it. In the wall under the east window notice the heavily barred opening—a "leper window." Observe the fine timbered Reader's House, and the landscape to the north, and on the parapet of the Church an arrow which marked the position of the Fletcher's Chapel. The buildings of the old college of the Palmer's Guild and of Hosyer's Almshouse are on the west. Returning to the street we pass along the Narrows to the Bull Ring, and turning left reach the "Feathers," a very beautiful example of an old Tudor house.

**A Walk Around the Town.** The most beautiful walk in close proximity to the town is the favourite promenade of Whitcliffe. Proceed through the Broad Gate to Ludford Bridge. In front is Ludford Church, dedicated to St. Giles, and Ludford House, the Jacobean residence of the Charlton family. The road turns up to the right. Pass up the steps and at the top of the path you have a fine view of Ludlow and its gardens. Take the rocky path by an old quarry, a happy hunting-ground for the geologist, and proceed alongside the river. On reaching the other bridge you may proceed over it to the town or, turning to the left, ascend a rocky pathway to the top, where from the Bowling Green there is a most impressive view. Return by a



*W. H. Smith & Son Ltd.,  
Photo.*

RIVER TEME AND LUDFORD  
BRIDGE.

road which winds round the west end of the hill and you will get fine views of the Castle. Crossing the new Bridge you may proceed up the bank past the gardens and castle walks or take a turn to the left and wind round the north side of the castle, entering the centre of the town at the church.

**A Walk to the North.** From the centre of the town pass the Feathers down Corve Street and turn left at the bottom and you will find yourself on a splendid road which for more than a mile runs alongside the railway. The bridge over the railway affords access to the racecourse and the golf course. A mile further on is Stanton Lacy, whose church dates back to pre-Norman times and is well worth visiting. From here you may return to Ludlow alongside the woody slopes on the east.

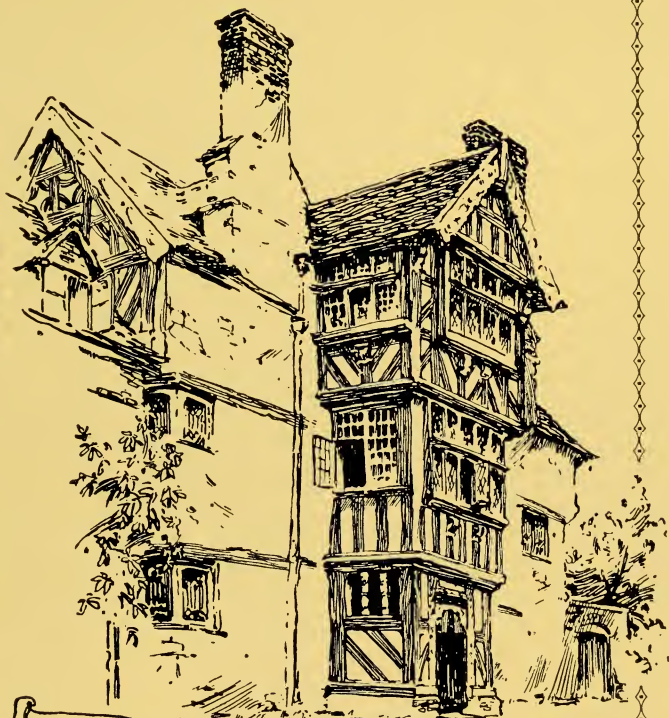
If you proceed onwards for a mile you reach Bromfield, a delightful village on the Onny. It has a fine church and the ruins of a Benedictine priory. Beyond the church is a bridge over the Teme, and the visitor may return to Ludlow through Oakly Park and Priors Halton.

**A Walk in the Comus Country.** Proceed up Whitcliffe as if going to the Bowling Green, noting on the way the trenches thrown up by the Cromwellian soldiers in the siege of Ludlow Castle. Continue the road till you reach a cottage at the entrance to the wood. Here a cart track turns left alongside the field boundary; follow this across the track until you reach the top of the highest field. Follow the path to the right through the wood till you again reach cultivated land, and pass through a gate to a grassy path leading to the pine-clad summit of Mary Knowl, whence a magnificent panorama is disclosed. On leaving, proceed down a rough cart-track on the south side of the hill to the wooded glen below, known as Sunny Gutter or Comus Valley, associated with the incidents that formed the basis of Milton's *Masque of Comus*. Following the narrow valley through the woods you will reach a main road at Overton, turning to the left for Ludlow.

**A Walk to the South.** Proceed on the main road over Ludford Bridge, keeping to the left where the road forks, more than a mile out. Continue on this road past the second milestone where, over a stile on left of the road, a path leads towards a railway bridge. Cross it and the bridge over the Teme at Ashford Mill, where there is a good view of the river and weir. Turn to the right for the village of Ashford Carbonell. Its parish church has Norman work, the arrangement of its east windows being unique. Returning towards the bridge you may return by a lane crossing the railway and proceed by Saltmore to Steventon and so to Ludlow. Or, turning right, continue to the next cross-roads, the Serpent, where, turning left, the road leads over Tinkers' Hill to Steventon.

**A Walk to the West.** Proceed over Whitcliffe and continue on the high road. A steep descent follows through a beautifully wooded country to Aston ( $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles). The little church with a leper window and a curious tympanum is Norman. There is also a moated mound used in bygone days as a place of refuge and defence. We go on to Elton, whose church is of Norman origin. We are now on the edge of the great lake which filled the huge hollow—Wigmore Hole—before the Teme cut its way through the Downton rocks. Now we reach Leinthall Starks and then Wigmore (8 miles) with its church piled up on the hill side. A little further, higher up the hillside, are the ruins of Wigmore Castle, the mediaeval stronghold of the all-powerful Mortimers. Leave Wigmore by the road leading north, and about a mile on, turn to the right along a lane to Wigmore Grange, the site of Wigmore Abbey. Continue to Ludlow via Downton Castle.

# THE READER'S HOUSE



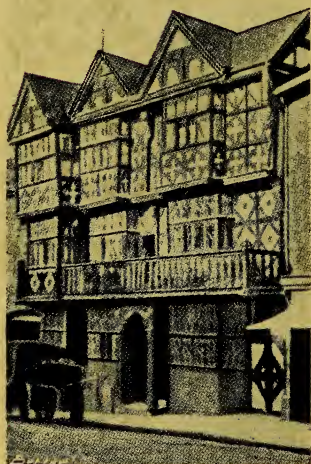
THE  
READERS  
HOUSE  
LUDLOW

O. PITTMAN.

## OPEN DAILY TO VISITORS

(See Page 25)

THE  
FEATHERS HOTEL  
LUDLOW



FIRST - CLASS  
Accommodation  
for TOURISTS



EVERY  
COMFORT &  
Convenience



Good Cooking

**BED & BREAKFAST**

LUNCHEONS, TEAS AND DINNERS



PROPRIETOR - - - - W. TANNER

TELEPHONE—19